

**Remarks**

The Applicants request an interview with the Examiner in order to expedite prosecution of the application to allowance.

Claims 14-15; 18-20; 22-23; 26-38 are currently pending.

Claims 14, 26, and 34 – 36 are independent.

Claims 14, 18, 20 are currently amended.

Claim 26 – 38 are claims 1-13 reinstated but with claims 28, 31 and 35 amended relative to their previous version. The amendments are as follows:

Claim 28: VVFVTKLKREVCADPKKEWVQTYIKNLDR--QQOPPKA  
~~KEAVVFVTKLKREVCADPKKEWVQTYIKNLDR--QQOPPKA.~~

Claim 31: VVFVTKLKREVCADPKKEWVQTYIKNLDR--QQOPPKA  
~~KEAVVFVTKLKREVCADPKKEWVQTYIKNLDR--QQOPPKA.~~

Claim 35: (xvi) from the amino acid sequence of a variant of the chemokine human Monocyte Chemoattractant Factor hMCP 1, that corresponds to AA93 – AA99 of hMCP 1 as set forth in FIGURE 9;

(xvii) from the amino acid sequence of the chemokine hMCP 3, that corresponds to to AA<sub>61</sub> – AA<sub>67</sub> of hMCP 3 as set forth in FIGURE 10;

The objection to claim 16 is not moot.

Applicants believe the above amendment overcomes the rejection based on 35 USC 112.

Claim 14 has been amended to recite a method for promoting clearance ~~providing a protective effect~~ in vivo against challenge by a meningitis etiologic virus and/or bacteria.

A substitute specification is hereby submitted. Amendments are made on pages 1, 34, 68, 69, 70, 71, 73, 74, 76 and 78. The amendments are made to implement the preliminary amendments not yet entered and correct some typographical errors and amend the priority claim to include the current status of the prior applications.

Applicants believe the current title is appropriate.

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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